

"Building Our Sense of Community"

Shelton State Courier

—Campus Newspaper—

New Series Vol. 2, Number 16

Shelton State Community College

Nov. 12-Nov. 30, 1998

First Part in a Series Examining the College's Athletic Program

Shelton's Hoop Dreams



Roundball coaches Barry Mohun and Madonna Thompson are ready to take you to the Shelton hoop with them

Photo by Melissa Dover

By James A. Crawford II and LeKeisha Steele

Shelton State has two new basketball coaches this season, each with tough games ahead of them. The toughest game by far, though, may be in trying to lure in more attendance to a solid, yet largely unrecognized program.

With a brand new gym, new equipment and more things on the way, the only thing that is missing—perhaps surprisingly—is student and faculty support for the teams here at Shelton State.

"We look at it as a challenge to try to get more of the faculty

and students to attend the home games. Two-year colleges are of course about academics, but you can't have just that. You need the sports programs to bring in students and build the student body around," says first-year men's basketball head coach Barry Mohun.

Shelton State, along with many other two-year colleges in the Southern region, must deal with living in the shadow of a nearby four-year institution, a fact that makes establishing a sports program a not-so-easy feat.

"Unfortunately, the Univer-

sity of Alabama is seen as the only show in town, but in reality they're facing a lot of problems of their own. With scholarship limitations, two-year colleges are emerging as a good second choice for students who want a chance to play and get an education," says Shelton Dean of Students Humphrey Lee.

Although largely looked upon as deferred starting points for athletes, two-year institutions offer players chances they may not get at the bigger schools.

"If a player shows some

Dreams cont'd on pg. 3

Pump Boys and Dinettes is a down-home, toe-tapping good time

One of the reasons you can't always get a good crowd out to the theatre for a cultural experience is because not all that many people care if they have a cultural experience anyway.

But Theatre Tuscaloosa's current production, *Pump Boy and Dinettes*, should help rectify this situation.

Feel free to visit Shelton's Bean-Brown Theatre if you're no

more of a theatre connoisseur than, say, Jeff Foxworthy.

A very talented musical crew of supposed gas station workers and waitresses will show you nothing but a relaxing, toe-tapping good time as they croon and play their way through a score of lively tunes.

Composed by a cadre of misplaced Southerners a few years ago, the musical makes you nostalgic for a world you may have never known:

the folksy ways of life off Hwy. 57 in what must be our neighboring state of Georgia.

Do yourself and your sweetheart a favor and catch the tuneful offering of the professional company that sings and plays their hearts out.

Shows will be held from Nov. 12-15; tickets range from \$15 to \$8 for children.

For more information, call 391-2277.

Working Your Way Through College

Eating's a good thing, too

The first in a series of articles chronicling the interesting worklife of various Shelton State students

By Eric Dickey

I am a 22 year-old college student and have worked 45- to 50 hours a week for the past two years of my life. How did I do it? The answer is simple; I had no other choice.

Between all of the bills that I have accumulated, car payments and etc. there is not a chance that I could quit even if I wanted to.

I myself know that putting a lot of late-night hours is a must if you plan to hold a job. However, some students are naturally talented and can manage to work and go to school full time with no problems.

Forexample, David Tatum, who is employed with a local architectural company, said that he never has to crack open a book.

"I listen in class. That way I can spend my nights meeting chicks at the local bars," laughs Tatum. "I would rather be working than at school. It's no fun, yet I seem to spend way too much time there."

In other instances, though, many students are forced to stay up all night due to studying for a test after getting off late.

"I have had many nights where I would be up until time to go take my test at eight in the morning due to getting off work at three a.m.," says Rhett Maddox, the office manager at

Working cont'd on pg. 3



Eric Dickey tries to go to school time, while he works full time at Food World in Cottondale.

Photo by Melissa Dover

Sheltoniana Which Can Be Found Nowhere Else

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Look for the sales, discount coupons, and special notices in the Courier's ads

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One Way of Looking at It...

A Streetcar Is My Desire

The opportunity came along the other day for me to meet Lucy Kubiszyn's Public Relations Class while she was out at a doctor's appointment. Having worked in a PR office as an undergraduate and then having taken a number of jobs in the last 20 years that were PR-oriented, I thought I could amuse them for 45 minutes with no sweat.

In the course of our chat, I mentioned that I had attended a meeting at City Hall that was a discussion about public transportation in Tuscaloosa. I expressed the opinion that public transportation would be a good thing here—as well as everywhere else. I said I thought the dismantling of public transportation in the 20th century with the ascendancy of the automobile was a public relations ploy on the part of the automobile, tire and gasoline manufacturers.

The bell rung!

I was immediately transformed from some drone they had to endure to a maniac who had to be put in his proper place. After all, they were sure I was going to line them up and take the keys away to their beloved pickup trucks. Soon.

I mean, they got fired up. All of them.

Except for one fellow who had lived in Germany for a while. He eventually spoke up for the idea, telling the class how much he loved getting around by train, how

cheap it was in Europe, how convenient, how cool...

He and I put up a valiant fight, I thought. We didn't lose the battle against those terrific odds, but of course we didn't win either. Nobody else thought it was a good idea before or after our discussion.

I tried to point out that human beings are, by definition of the zoologists, "social animals." We actually, as a whole, like to be around others of our species. As long as hanging out doesn't cost us too many fruits or berries, or if no one tries to kill our young or mate with our mates in the process.

We have learned to hide in our caves and sneak around in our environment in packs of no more than three or four—or preferably one—so that we can be safe to nibble our berries for another day.

But have you ever had the occasion to interact with people on the way to work, or on a shopping trip downtown? It's actually fun. People-watching is, secretly, one of the favorite activities of most people. Everybody does it. Including you. And to you!

So, relax. Enjoy yourself. Be open minded. No one is going to take your pickup truck away. But maybe, one day, you'll be able to do some of your more routine traveling with other human beings. Maybe one day, you'll be more like me. And it will be a streetcar that you'll desire.

—Jim Kenny

Election results look good for education, but let's wait and see...

Overall, the state-wide election results from Nov. 3 look good for students, for Shelton State and for other institutions of higher learning. Most of the candidates who both said and, when called upon, have supported education won their races.

We congratulate them.

Especially gratifying were the victories of Don Siegelman for governor and the re-election of Sandra Ray to the Alabama State School Board. Undoubtedly it was the support of the *Shelton State Courier* that put them over the top!

Now, seriously folks...

Anyway, the multiple moments of truth lie ahead. Not only will we eventually discover if all the politicians who said they had innovative ideas really had them (especially for higher education), but we will find out if they are good enough politicians

Opinion

to make what they say they want to have happen: happen.

Rarely do you find that felicitous situation where the person with his heart in the right place also has the ability to do the right thing he envisions.

History tells us, for instance, that President Lyndon Johnson was the most skillful arm-twister in American political history. He was able to create the Great Society of the '60s by cajoling, intimidating, bribing and brow-beating. He got it done.

Unfortunately, in retrospect, many of the ideas of the Great Society were psychologically unsound. Their collective philosophy was to throw enough money at all social problems until the all went away. They didn't.

In the '70s, I think we can now see that President Jimmy Carter had some great ideas about the role of the United States in the world at large. Many of his ideas still resonate. But Carter was a micro-manager, not a bold, charismatic leader. Things didn't work out, even though he had the best intentions.

We all know that this state election hinged on one issue: a state

lottery. Amazingly, Don Siegelman was right in supporting it from a political point-of-view. The people wanted it, and they elected the man who said he would give it to them.

But we know that lotteries can be good and lotteries can be bad. By all account the lottery in Georgia works because the people who put it in place were both visionary and skillful enough to see that it works the best way. It has enhanced the higher education system in the state.

By all accounts, the Florida system has not been so successful—at least for higher education. People whose hearts were not residing where they were supposed to be or who had failed good intentions let their lottery run them. Nobody is too happy about it.

If our politicians, who now know it's the will of the people to have a lottery based on the Georgia model, are skillful and visionary enough; then everything is going to work out fine.

But they have to be smart. And they have to be honest.

We think they are, but let's let them know we're watching to be sure they are.

Future Issues

The *Courier* looks forward to 13 more issues this school year: one more in November, two each month in February, March and April; one each month is scheduled for December, January, May, June, July and August. Let us know what you would like to know about Shelton by calling the publisher at 391-2278 or the new Shelton Editorial Office at 391-2406.

SGA plans can food drive in November

Beginning on Nov. 10 and running through the 25th, the SGA at Shelton State will hold a campus-wide canned food drive to benefit the needy.

"The food will go to local charities such as the YMCA and the soup kitchens to benefit the homeless and those of less fortune," says Becky Avery, SGA President.

The food will be collected daily in the Atrium near the guards' desk in large cardboard boxes that will be clearly marked.

The SGA encourages everyone to try and bring some food in and help their fellow citizens.

SGA plans retreat on Nov. 13

The SGA plans to hold its first ever retreat on Nov. 13 at the Holly Springs Church campgrounds on Hwy 43N.

The retreat will feature hamburgers, hotdogs and other activities planned by group advisor Tracy Branch and Dean of Students Humphrey Lee.

"We plan to encourage everyone at Shelton State who wants to come to drive on up," says Becky Avery.

To RSVP your attendance or get a copy of the map to the site contact Tracy Branch at the Counseling Center on the Martin Campus.

SGA pushes to bring back Student ID's

Acting on the overwhelming results of a recent poll conducted by the SGA and the *Courier*, President Becky Avery announced that the administration had agreed on the need for reinstatement of the ID's.

"Dean Lee has been working on a plan to get someone to take the photographs. We are definitely moving ahead in the right direction and getting some things done," says Avery.

The results of the poll revealed that 83% of the student population were in favor of bringing back the student ID's.

Shelton State Courier

Editor: James A. Crawford II

Illustrator: Anthony Mack

Chief Photographer: Melissa Dover

Staff Writers: Members of the MCM 130 class

Publisher: Dr. Jim Kenny

Business Manager: Chris Bailey

Design Assistant:

Production Assistant: Julie Massengale, Scarlett Burns

The *Shelton State Courier* is a "campus newspaper" written and produced with the help of students.

Among other functions, it is intended as a vehicle for student expression and all students

are urged to participate with submissions of written and artistic material.

The college seeks to fulfill the statement for academic freedom in working with the students in the production of this paper:

"The college seeks to provide an atmosphere conducive to open and honest intellectual inquiry in any college forum which is appropriate for dialogue and student participation. The students should feel free to exercise the right to dissent within limits of decorum and good taste."

All publications are subject to review by the Publications Action Group, which has been delegated the responsibility to review all college publications for content and accuracy.

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Working cont'd from pg. 1

Bruno's. "In my experiences with working there is not much time for you to go to school and work. Especially if you really like your job and want the people who work around to think that you are doing your best."

But some students are just lucky, such as Stephanie Tatum. She can concentrate all of her extra time to her studies. She told the *Courier*, "I do not have to work. My mother and father give me all of the money I need."

Jenny Duncan, an employee at Musicland, said that she really likes her job. "This job is fun, and we also get to leave here around ten every night so I still have plenty of time to do my school work," says Duncan.

While doing all of this re-

porting, I wondered what kind of grades these students have, so I asked a few of them. Georgette Dewey, who works at Food World said, "I make A's and B's. My parents would shoot me if I ever came home with a D or F."

David Tatum commented, "I have a 3.5 grade point average, and that is without studying." On the other hand, there are students like myself, who struggle to make B's and C's due to the amount of time we have to put into our jobs.

Another hot issue to consider is the fact that if so many people hate their jobs and they lose sleep because of their jobs, why do these people still keep them?

Georgette Dewey said, "I hate my job and have thought about quitting a million times, but the money is more than I could make elsewhere. The money also pays all of my bills, since my parents do not

give me much money." Dewey went on to say that "working with my manager makes things a lot easier since he too is a college student. Asking for days off to study for a test is not quite as awful when I can talk to him."

I'm not sure what to make of that comment, but I guess I'm pleased if not schmoozed, since I am the manager she refers to.

I also came across a married student during my interviewing. Charles Reed's wife is also about to have a child. All of this on top of going to school full time, while working 40-hour weeks at McRaes.

"I do good just to be showing up at class. College takes me away from my family. I just want to hurry up and graduate and find a wonderful paying job that has good benefits for me and my wife," says Reed.

In the last interview I did, I had a long sit-down talk with Business Management student Angela West. She told the *Courier* that she is currently employed with McRaes. West said she hopes that her experience in retail will help her find a job easier when she finishes college with her Business Administration degree. She also said, "The time I spend at work I enjoy. However, if I could put more time into my studies then I would have better grades."

My greatest fear for myself is that I will not find a great-paying job that I truly enjoy once I finish school. The only helpful thing is that I know in the back of my mind that Food World will always be a job that I can fall back on, should anything happen in the future. The money is good. And the people are nice, and that is a lot more important than other things in life.

As all students who work

know, working can be rough on a student; however, the rewards aren't just financial. For most students, a job teaches responsibility that will be beneficial in adult life. This form of education cannot be gained in school.

In future issues of the *Courier*, I plan to spend time with selected students to see what their jobs are like—and what their lives are like as they interact between the worlds of education and commerce.

What is it like to wait on tables, or to sweep floors in the middle of the night, or to smile at someone who sweeps into your jewelry store with the hope of making a nice commission on a sale?

If you have a job you'd like to talk about or if you know someone who does, then give the *Courier* a call at 391-2406.

I may be dropping in on you—right where you work.

Hoops cont'd from pg. 1

promise, they can go to the junior college and develop the skills that they may need. Two-year colleges are also a wonderful way to go ahead and get some of your basic classes out of the way," says Fitz Patrick, head basketball coach at Hillcrest High School.

"You have to look at some of the selling points we have here at Shelton. We have brand new facility and we play at a very exciting level. For students who may develop later than others or who may need to develop some skills before they go on to a big college we're a good choice," says Mohun.

According to Mohun, the basketball programs are going to try things such as shooting contests, give-a-ways, and prizes to gain a little more attention for the programs.

On the other side of the court, the new women's basketball coach, Madonna Thompson, is off to a big start in her first win with a team of only nine players.

"We are really cautious about our fouling because of the shortage of ball handlers. The first four games are the tough games and they're the most important right now," says Thompson.

One issue Thompson did raise was about scholarship availability. She feels very strongly about equal scholarships and equal money for both the men and women's programs.

"It [The Women's National Basketball Association] is on the move, there are more commercials and fans watching as it continues to grow. Hopefully, I'll get to coach a girl or some girls into the WNBA while I'm at Shelton," says Thompson.

Overall, Thompson thinks women's basketball is definitely headed in the right

direction, but she hopes to have many supporters at the first home game, which is Thursday night, Nov. 19 at Shelton, in the gym at 5:30 p.m., with the men playing later at 7.

"Everything has gone well with the administration; now we just need more involvement with the community. I hope to get everyone involved. It is really amazing what crowd support can do for the girls," says Thompson.

Both coaches see the two-year sports programs as growing, but the real question will be whether or not it will be growing outward or inward.

Men's 1998-99 Basketball Schedule

(All Games Start at 7:30 p.m., unless noted)

Nov. 2-3 JONES COUNTY TIP OFF in Ellisville, Miss (Bucs def. East Miss. J.C. and lose to Jones County CC)

Nov. 9 Snead State in Boaz (Bucs win)

Nov. 19 Snead State Home

Nov. 26-28 PJC Tournament, Pensacola, Fla.

Dec. 1 Mary Holmes, Home

Dec. 3 Wallace-Selma, Selma

Dec. 5 Beville State, Home

Dec. 7 Southern Union, Wadley

Dec. 10 Jeff Davis, Brewton

Dec. 18 Northwest P.C.

Jan. 5 Beville State, Fayette

Jan. 9 Mary Holmes, West Point, Miss.

Jan. 11 Wallace-Hanceville, Hanceville

Jan. 14 Bishop State, Home

Jan. 19 Gadsden State, Home

Jan. 21 Enterprise State, Enterprise

Jan. 25 Walker College, Home

Jan. 28 Faulkner State, Home

Feb. 1 Lawson State, Home

Feb. 4 Wallace-Selma, Home

Feb. 6 Northwest P.C., Phil Campbell

Feb. 8 Southern Union, Home

Feb. 11 Wallace-Hanceville, Home

Feb. 15 Gadsden State, Gadsden

Feb. 18 Walker College, Jasper

Feb. 20 Enterprise State, Home

Feb. 22 Lawson State, Birmingham

Feb. 27- March 2 AJCCC Tournament in Bay Minette

March 16-20 NJCAA Tournament in Huncheson, Kans.

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Please Turn to Women's Schedule pg. 4



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Women's Basketball Schedule (All Times 5:30 p.m., unless noted)

Nov. 9 Snead State Boaz (Bucs Win)	Jan. 19 Gadsden State, Home
Nov. 12-13 Gulf Coast Tournament, Perkinston	Jan. 21 Enterprise State, Enterprise
Nov. 19 Snead State, Home	Jan. 25 Lurleen B. Wallace State, Home
Dec. 1 Mary Holmes, Home	Jan. 28 Faulkner State, Home
Dec. 3 Wallace-Selma, Selma	Feb. 1 Lawson State, Home
Dec. 5 Beville State, Home	Feb. 4 Wallace-Selma, Home
Dec. 7 Southern Union, Wadley	Feb. 8 Southern Union, Home
Dec. 11 Wallace-Dothan, Home	Feb. 11 Wallace-Hanceville, Home
Dec. 12 Miss. Gulf Coast, Home, 2 p.m.	Feb. 15 Gadsden State, Gadsden
Dec. 18 Northwest Shoals, Home	Feb. 18 Lurleen B. Wallace, Andalusia, 5 p.m.
Jan. 5 Beville State, Fayette	Feb. 20 Enterprise, Home
Jan. 9 Mary Holmes, West Point, Miss.	Feb. 22 Lawson State, Birmingham
Jan. 14 Bishop State, Home	March 2-6 AJCCC Tournament, Muscle Shoals, TBA
Jan. 16 Wallace-Dothan, Dothan	

1999 Miss Shelton State Scholarship Pageant

Need Scholarship Money?

Any young lady who is interested in earning possible scholarship money should enter the 1999 Miss Shelton State contest. Interested young ladies may contact Mrs. Lisa Matherson in the Financial Aid Office or by phone at 391-3903 for further information. The pageant will be held Jan. 16.

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The Scene...

By Kevin Drummond

Hale's Tavern, the newest addition to the strip on University Blvd., is a great place for Cajun food, live music, and interesting conversation.

Hale's Tavern is located in the center of the "Strip," in the building formally occupied by the International Deli. After buying the building, entrepreneur Wright Hale completely renovated the space inside to what is now the tavern.

Upon entering, patrons can find large tables that accommodate four and several booths, all available for service. Carpet was installed in the dining area when the tavern was remodeled. The bar is on the far wall and is very spacious. It sits about chest high and has about fifteen tall bar stools lined around it.

During the day, one doesn't have to look far for tasty and unique food. The tavern offers a wide range of lunch and

dinner plates to a variety of specialty sandwiches. "The muffaletta, which is a favorite here is affordable, prepared fast, and has the one-of-a-kind New Orleans Cajun taste," said bartender Denise Green.

For lunch and dinner you can have a list of food off the menu or you can have a daily plate special. The plate specials include a choice of one meat - beef, pork, seafood, or chicken; side items, and a salad.

To add with the food, you can hear live music here on Thursday thru Saturday nights. The bands that play are different each night. There are no certain bands and they vary from 80's music to jazz. At the bar you can find all of your favorite domestic beers and a menu of over eighty imported beers. With beer on tap the tavern offers a wide selection of wines and mixed drinks. You can meet your friends at the bar and you will find it is a great place for socializing.

Hale's Tavern is a place that is suitable for everyone and all students are welcome. The tavern opened on Oct. 1, 1998. The bar has done well so far, and should be a huge success here in Tuscaloosa.

The Shelton State Association of Nursing Students will sponsor a Blood Drive Nov. 23 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in Atrium rooms D-1 and D-2. The students have a goal of 50 Shelton family members participating.

C³ meeting gets good response

"I was surprised and very pleased. It was much more than I expected." That's what Philip Coleman, the director of Adult Student Recruitment at Shelton, described the turn-out for the first meeting of the Common Concerns Club, also known as C³.

Ten students attended the meeting Oct. 22 in the Food Court area of the Martin campus. Coleman serves as the advisor of the newly formed campus organization.

The club is geared toward students who face the "common concerns" of having to balance school work with jobs and caring for family. "The purpose is to have students meet other students facing the same situation, so they can talk about what they're going through with others who understand," explained Coleman.

The students who attended the meeting heard from a special guest, Shelton Vice President Ted Spring. "Dr. Spring did a fantastic job of getting the club members to open up and have some frank discussions about what's on their minds," said Coleman. It was Spring's idea to form the club.

Students raised such issues as making the

class schedules more flexible for working students by offering more classes at night. Spring took notes during the meeting and said suggestions will be given consideration.

Other ideas expressed included:

- Begin some classes later in the day (beyond 4 p.m.), so the students will have time to go to class after work. Consider extending those classes beyond the regular semester to make up the hours—or perhaps meet on one or two Saturdays or Friday nights to make up the time.
- Encourage faculty to return voice-mail messages
- Encourage faculty to be aware of returning students' academic rustiness
- Work with the Food Court to have sandwiches available for pick-up before class.

Regular meetings of the Common Concerns Club are now scheduled for every Monday evening at 6:30 in the Food Court. There are plans to start a daytime version of the club. Anyone interested in joining the day or night chapters is encouraged to call Coleman at 391-2476.

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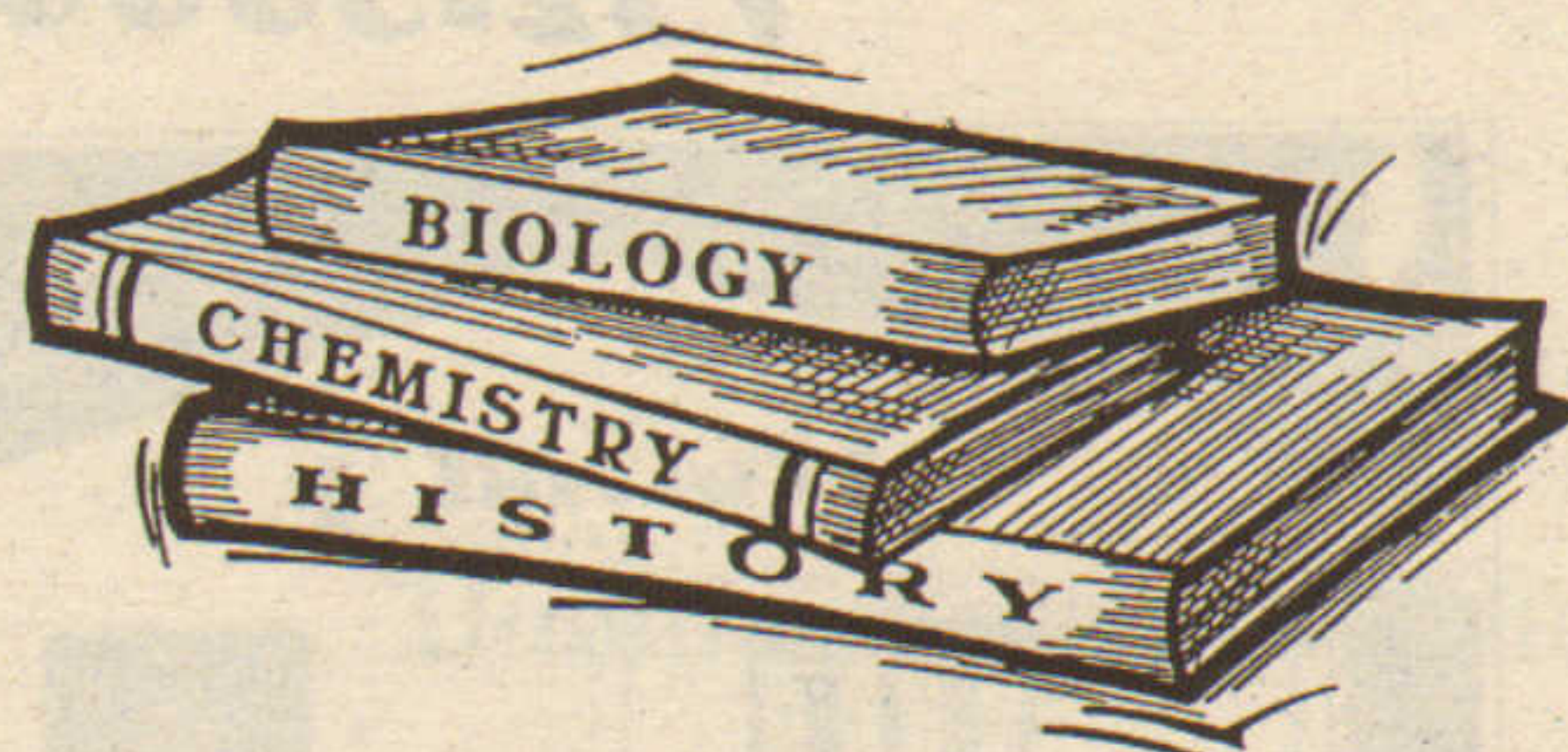
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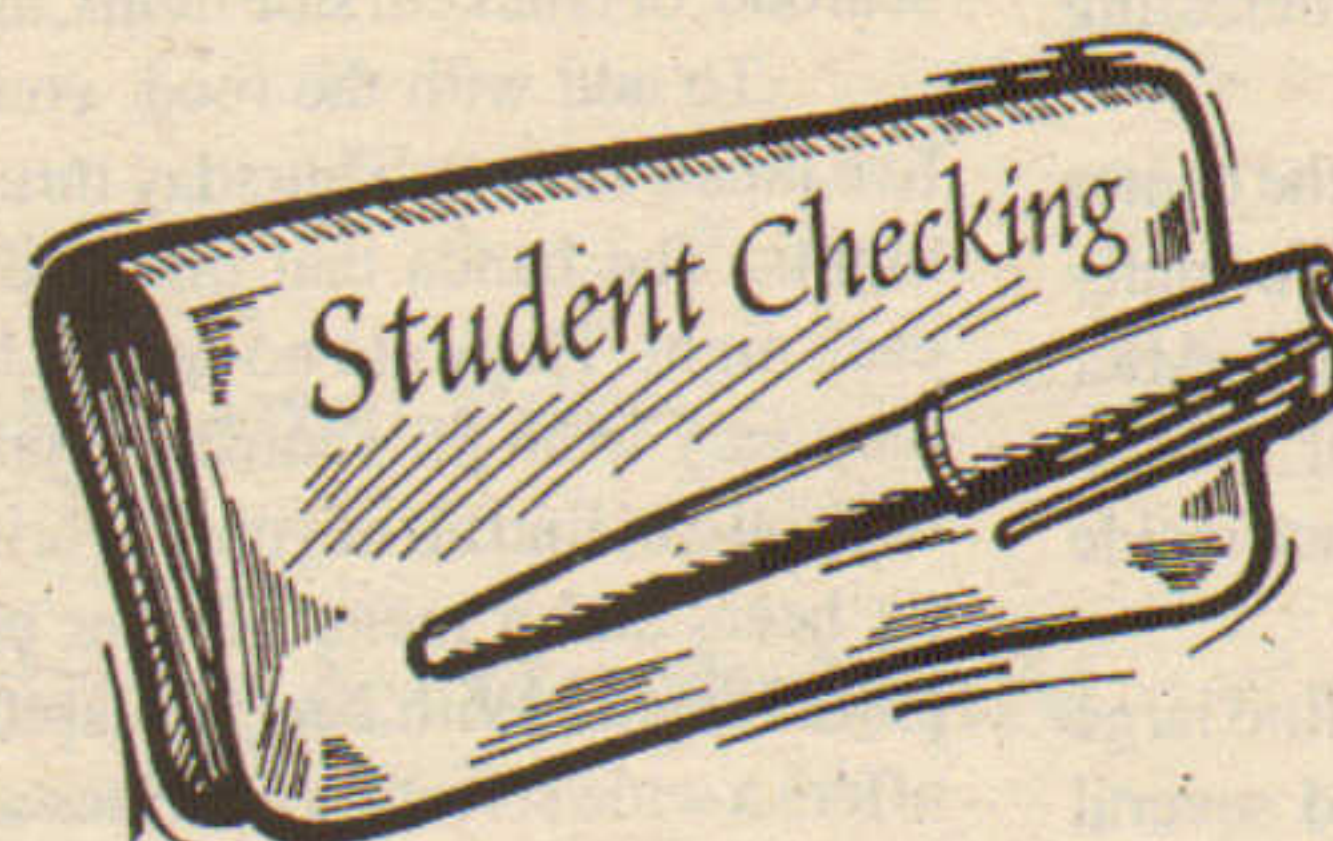


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Boot

"Boot" is the next show in the National Bank of Commerce Gallery at Shelton State from Nov. 18 until Dec. 18. The photographic exhibition features the work of Stephen Grote who went through Marine training on Paris Island and lived to return and photograph it with the permission of the Corps. A reception for the show will be held Nov. 18 from 5-7 p.m. The show dates coincide with the celebration of the Marine Corp's birthday in November.

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BULLETIN BOARD

Okay, we can all stop feeling guilty now about being a part of the force that pulled Theatre Tuscaloosa out of the Bama Theatre downtown and into the new Bean-Brown Theatre on the Shelton State campus.

Most people could see the inevitability of the move, but everyone hated to say good-bye to old downtown, to the Spanish and Moroccan style interior—and, oh, to those stars in the ceiling, those stars...

But, oh joy, there is a plan afoot that could get us all back inside the Bama on a regular basis—even more often than for live theatre. The Bama may be bringing back movies.

Built as one of the last of the "Movie Palaces" in the '30s, the Bama may, in just a few months, begin showing some of the wide-screen spectaculars it was built to exhibit.

Better yet, the plan is to also include the showing of art films you can't see anywhere in T-town.

Now don't you feel better!

The Shelton State Association of Nursing Students (SSANS) received the Precious Metal Awards on Oct. 23 at the Alabama State Nursing Convention at the Bryant Conference Center on the University of Alabama campus.

Michelle Beniest was elected to office in the National Students Nurses Association as Legislature Chairperson. Her duties will take her to Washington, D.C.

The academic scholarship committee has a few scholarships available for the spring semester. Pick up applications in the Dean of Students Office.

Minimum requirements for a scholarship are:

- completion of 15 semester hours at Shelton by the end of fall '98
- 3.0 QPA
- must have completed college-level math and English courses
- must submit an essay with completed application

In the past, the average QPA for these scholarships have been a 3.5.

Recipients will be required to take 15 hours during the spring semester. The committee will make its decision by Jan. 5. Any recipient who has already registered will be reimbursed for 15 hours.

Food Court "Interactive Newspaper" Corner

"Any relaxation of legality of drugs poses a clear and present danger to our nations' children..."

Although legalization might temporarily alleviate the burden of the criminal justice system, such a policy would impose heavy additional costs on the health-care system, schools, and workplace. Legalization would severely impair the ability of millions of young Americans to develop their talents. And, in the long run, it would overburden the criminal justice system after all.

While drugs such as alcohol, tobacco and caffeine are legal and can lead to addiction and self-destructive behavior, that hardly serves as rational justification for exposing our children and society to the additional risks associated with narcotic drugs, such as marijuana and cocaine.

Research conducted by The National Center on Addiction and Abuse at Columbia University refutes the arguments of drug legalization proponents who claim that legalizing drugs would solve many of our nation's problems. It cites evidence that countries like the Netherlands, Great Britain and Switzerland, often given as models for legalization, have not experienced reduction in drug use or crime. Further, any relaxation in standards of illegality poses a clear and present danger to the nation's children and their ability to learn and grow into productive citizens.

While a number of American efforts to curb the drug trade are effective, America's drug policies do need a fix. More resources and energy should be devoted to education, prevention and treatment, and each citizen and institution should take responsibility to combat drug abuse and addiction in America.

Legalizing drugs is not a panacea to solving the drug problem. As much of the local drug problem is the result of "legalized prescription drugs" as it is illegal drugs. Making something legal does not automatically control it; simply look at the statistics for teenage alcohol and tobacco abuse.

Over the past 15 years our nation has reduced drug use dramatically. In 1979, 24 million American used illicit drugs. Today fewer than half that amount of Americans do. If we legalized drugs those numbers would reverse.

Studies show that between 1972 and 1978, when eleven states decriminalized

marijuana, use escalated to unprecedented levels: from 14 to 31 percent among children and adolescents and from 48 to 68 percent among young adults. The use of other drugs escalated as well.

It has taken many years of steady advocacy from community groups and national organizations and the creation of governmental policies at all levels to shift attitudes about drug abuse. We do not want the resulting reductions in drug abuse undone by legalization.

Our two legal drugs demonstrate what would happen if we legalized. Ten times more Americans use alcohol and five times more use tobacco than illicit drugs. Recent surveys show that 98 million Americans used alcohol in the past month and 54 million used cigarettes, while only 11 million used illicit drugs.

Legalization's impact on children and teenagers would be devastating. Even though alcohol and tobacco are illegal for those under-age, 19 times more have tried cigarettes than cocaine and 23 times more have tried alcohol. No amount of governmental regulation would be able to effectively prevent manufactures of legalized drugs from advertising and marketing to increase consumption, as alcohol and tobacco manufacturers do despite bans on advertising in some media. These industries spend approximately \$4-6 billion a year to convince Americans to use alcohol and tobacco. As the number of drug users increased, so would the number of people addicted to drugs.

Currently, 50 million Americans are addicted to nicotine and 18 million are addicted to cocaine. Legalizing drugs would produce more addicts and require more, not less, money for treatment and the other health care costs associated with addiction.

Legalizing drugs would drive crime up not down. Crime is related to use and addiction as well as drug dealing and trafficking. One half of all homicides and serious assaults involve the legal drug, alcohol. Half of all males arrested for any crime test positive for drug use. Making drugs legally available would only increase crime.

I respect James Crawford for his reasoned argument for legalizing marijuana, but I feel sure his conclusions are wrong. For our survival, drug use must be resisted.

—Brian K. Sellers, Shelton Instructor

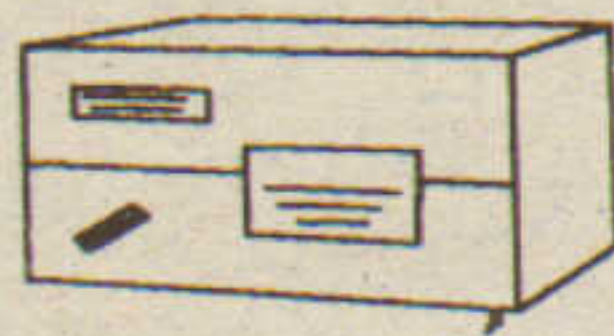
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For a run-down of the day's menu, call the menu hotline at 391-2336

Writers of the selected editorials receive free lunch at the Shelton Food Court. Please submit responses or editorials to the new Courier office on the west wing of the second floor.

Off-campus submissions are welcome
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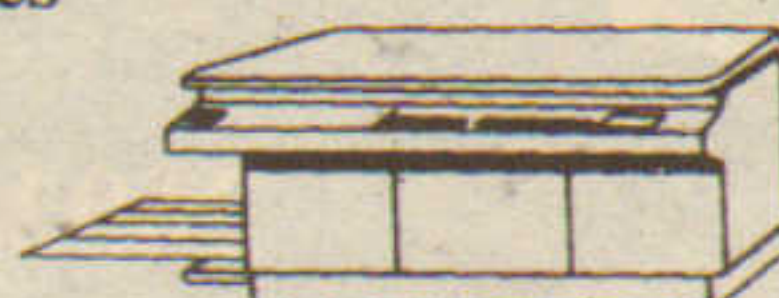


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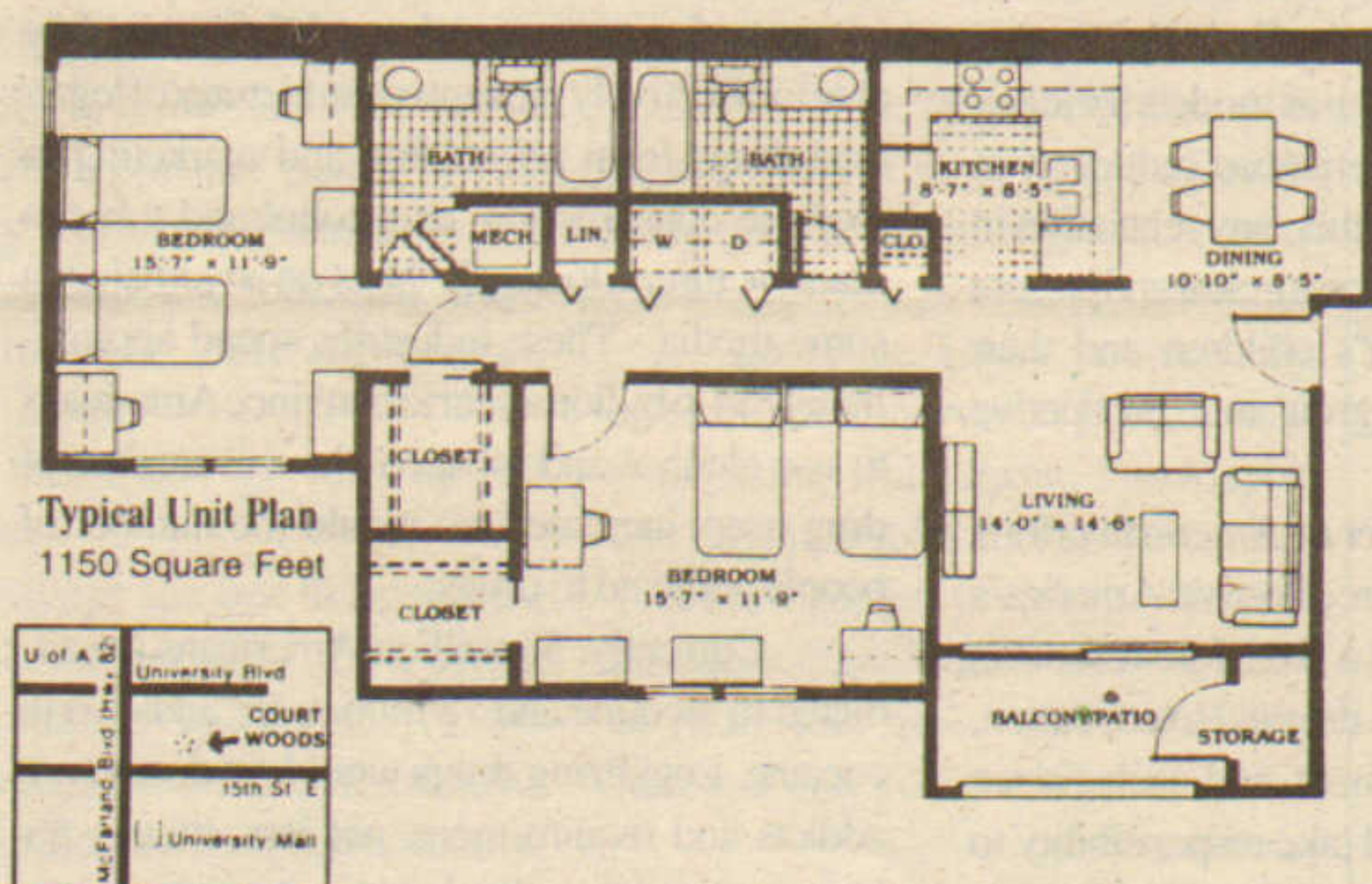
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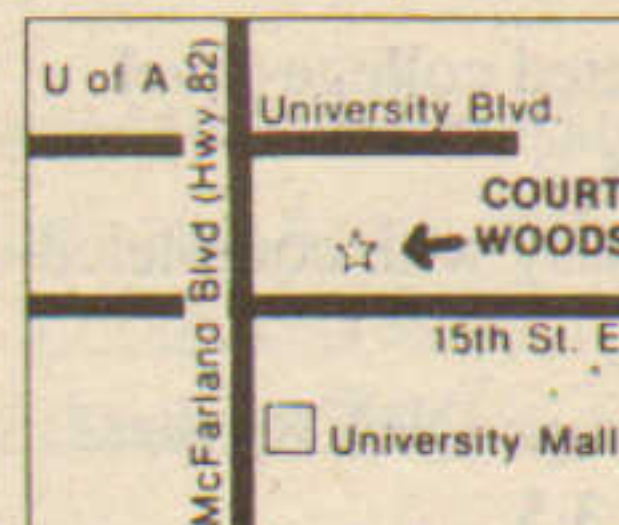
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